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MEDIA RELEASE

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Air District Presents Eighth Annual *Exemplar Awards*

Victorville – The first major power plant to be built in Southern California in more than a decade and two military bases were among six local entities recognized for their pollution prevention efforts today, as the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) presented its eighth *Exemplar Awards* during its monthly Governing Board meeting in Victorville.

The recipients of the 2003/2004 *Exemplar Awards* are:

High Desert Power Plant (HDPP)/Constellation Energy, for constructing a clean-burning, natural gas-fired electric generating facility which has proved pivotal in helping California meet increased energy demands. Conceived in the midst of the state's energy crisis, the Victorville plant produces enough energy to power nearly one million homes, while producing significantly less emissions and operating on one-third less fuel than power plants located in the Los Angeles basin. Moreover, the groundbreaking agreement between the MDAQMD and HDPP for interbasin transfer of emission reduction credits paved the way for future projects, while insuring the protection of local air quality. HDPP/Constellation Energy's award was accepted by Dave

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Boward, HDPP General Manager and Ramiro Garcia, Constellation Energy Environmental Director, Western Region;

Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB), Barstow, for implementing an innovative solar energy project for the purpose of powering a fleet of all-electric vehicles and providing security lighting to remote areas of the installation. In an effort to curtail petroleum use, reduce emissions and cut costs, MCLB recently purchased 50 zero-emission GEM cars and installed portable solar collectors to recharge the vehicles. The solar collectors are also being used to power street and security lights around the installation. By operating the GEMS fleet in lieu of conventionally-fueled vehicles, MCLB expects to reduce criteria pollutants by almost 1,000 lbs. per year. MCLB's *Exemplar* was presented to Colonel S.J. Thompson, Commanding Officer.

The National Training Center & Fort Irwin received a record sixth *Exemplar* Award for making significant enhancements to its multi-year dust mitigation program, which has dramatically reduced dust and airborne particles at the 1,050 square mile installation since its launch in 1997. Recent enhancements to the program include treatment of a 22 mile dirt road used to transport training equipment with dust suppressant, an action which is expected to reduce airborne particulate matter associated with road usage by 30 tons per year. In 2004, Fort Irwin also voluntarily retrofitted or replaced seven boilers, which substantially reduced fuel consumption and emissions of oxides of nitrogen on base. The 2003/2004 *Exemplar* Award was accepted by Lt. Colonel Paul D. Cramer, Director of Public Works at Fort Irwin, and Muhammad Bari, Environmental Division Chief;

Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex (GDSCC), Deep Space Network, for installing the Ecovent Recirculator System, which creates a closed loop system that removes 99% of oil mist and airborne particles associated with the operation of two diesel engine-operated powerhouses located at the facility. Pat Carr, ITT Industries/Deep Space Network Program Manager and Sonny Giroux, GDSCC Site Manager, accepted the *Exemplar*, the fourth such award earned by the Complex in the past eight years.;

Mitsubishi Cement Corporation, for voluntarily paving 81,913 feet of in-plant roads with concrete. Widely recognized as one of the nation's most environmentally friendly cement manufacturing facilities, Mitsubishi Cement set out to reduce dust from unpaved roads, a major source of particulate matter in Lucerne Valley. Estimated reductions associated with Mitsubishi Cement's extensive paving project are approximately 15 tons of particulate matter per year. Mitsubishi Cement's third *Exemplar* Award was accepted by Bud Biggs, Vice President and Plant Manager of the Lucerne Valley facility; and

U.S. Marine Corps, Maintenance Center, Barstow, for its state-of-the-art Paint and Undercoat Facility, which consolidated four existing uncontrolled painting operations under one roof. The \$8.3 million facility – which houses painting, degreasing and engine testing operations – utilizes a thermal oxidation air pollution control system that completely destroys volatile organic compound emissions. The project has reduced VOC emissions from these operations by over five tons per year, while allowing the Maintenance Center to increase its workload. The Maintenance Center's award was accepted by Colonel Arthur Sass, Commander.

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The *Exemplar* Awards recognize High Desert entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities/projects that reduce or prevent air pollution within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which encompasses San Bernardino County's High Desert and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley. The *Exemplar* Awards are presented each September by the local regulatory air agency in association with National Pollution Prevention Week.

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